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Bangalore Mirror

ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 33 | Min 22 | Humidity 32% Partly sunny Sensex 73,583 | Nifty 22,819 | Gold 1,42,695 | Silver 2,23,636 | Dollar 94.82 | Euro 109.40 | GBP 126.15

WEB OF THIEVES

As investigators increasingly rely on digital forensics to keep pace with ever-evolving cyber-threats, we delve into a day in the life of an expert

PAGE 5

RCB RULES

Padikkal, Kohli power RCB's win on day that began on sombre note with tributes to last year's stampede victims

PAGE 7

Around 3,000 divorce petitions are filed in Family Court in Bengaluru each year for reasons ranging from domestic abuse to ordering in food too often — experts discuss the impacts disputes between parents can have on children

CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE

Children process divorce differently depending on their age

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As the number of divorces rise in the city, experts say it is the children, who are often most neglected, as parents spar over not only personal issues but also their custody.

Between 2020–2025, a total of 1,95,210 divorce cases were filed in family courts across Karnataka. Over the years, the figures have been fluctuating: 20,454 cases in 2020 rose to 24,141 cases in 2021, followed by spike of 66,863 cases in 2022, followed by a decline in 2023 with 41,230 cases and 36,952 cases in 2024. The early months of 2025 saw 5,576 divorce cases. In Bengaluru, every year, around 2,000 to 3,000 divorce petitions are filed in Family Court.

Ashish Krupakar, Partner with Trana Law, told BM about the cases he has handled, "About 80% of the matters I handle involve custody of children. Marriages tend to break quickly; I have seen some marriages break within two years and some within a year," he said, highlighting that children frequently become a pawn in these disputes between their parents.

> **During separation, many children feel neglected and turn to online spaces, social media, or even AI platforms to seek answers and reassurance. While these responses may appear comforting, over time this can lead to social withdrawal, increased screen dependence, reduced social skills and coping ability**
>
> —Dr. Shree Lakshmi Mallya, psychiatrist

He said in many of these cases, interference from in-laws is seen, or wives demanding that the husband move to a separate home, or not cooking for the spouse, or reasons such as ordering food from outside too much, too are reasons for marriages to break up.

Some of these issues do not even fall within any of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

Bowled out

Keeping bowls of water out for birds and animals is commendable, but experts warn unclean dishes can be hotbed of infections

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As Bengaluru continues to sizzle, animals and birds are struggling to cope with the extreme heat. With the temperature expected to soar further over the coming days and weeks, many city-based NGOs, animal welfare workers, and other citizens are placing water bowls out to quench the thirst of these birds and animals.

However, experts have a word of caution. While providing water may appear to help birds beat the heat, unkempt water bowls can increase the risk of disease transmission.

In summer conditions, a shallow bowl can become contaminated within hours. Droppings, food residue, feathers, and biofilm build up quickly, especially when water is left unchanged.

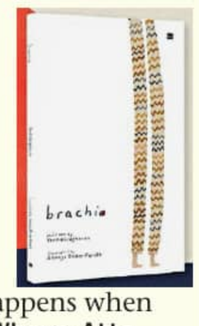
"We are noticing an increase in infections associated with such shared resources. These include Trichomoniasis, a protozoan disease that spreads through contaminated water and can affect feeding; Avian pox, which causes lesions that can interfere with survival; Salmonellosis, often linked to fecal contamination; and bacterial illnesses such as colibacillosis caused by E. coli.

Concerns around Avian influenza add

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Play of words



Atta Galatta is presenting an interactive dramatic reading by Venkataraghavan, where the author brings his story to life by performing it as a lively play. The story follows Brachio, a very tall beach dweller who loves helping people, but must confront what happens when the villagers no longer need him. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: March 29, 1.30 pm**

02 Resistance in bloom

Kapila Nahender presents Pockets of Resistance, a new body of work that examines the subtle yet powerful ways in which nature continues to exist within the dense fabric of contemporary cities through a series of layered oil paintings. **Where: Venkatappa Art Gallery; When: Until March 29, 11 am to 6 pm**

03 Grounds for fun

Sattva Group is hosting a Coffee Rave, designed to attract young, urban consumers looking for a vibrant community and wellness-led lifestyle. The event features a lively music party, coffee and curated light food. **Where: Sattva City; When: April 4, 9 am**

04 Sport sanctuary

Loco Lane transforms match day into a premium fan sanctuary, offering all inclusive IPL screenings with gourmet dining and box seating for an elevated experience. **Where: Loco Lane, Ashok Nagar; When: Until May 31, 5 pm**

05 Presence in pause

ArtFlute is presenting Choosing to Rest, an online exhibition that explores rest not as inactivity, but as presence - a moment of listening to the body, intuition, and inner rhythm in a world defined by speed and constant output. **Where: ArtFlute Online Gallery (www.artflute.com); When: Until April 10**

SSLC rule change amid exams raises questions about timing

Govt's decision to transition third language subjects to grading-only system draws criticism, with concerns over students' efforts and possibility of confusion amid ongoing exam season

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The School Education Department's decision to remove the pass-fail requirement for the third language in SSLC exams, even as examinations are currently underway, has triggered a political and academic controversy across the state.

The move, seen as part of the government's push towards a two-language formula and largely impacting Hindi, has been welcomed by several parents and students for reducing academic pressure. However, the timing of the announcement during the ongoing SSLC examinations has drawn criticism from the Opposition and school bodies.

Rajajinagar MLA and former Education Minister S Suresh Kumar questioned the decision, calling it a serious lapse in academic governance. "Is there no value for students' future? Conducting SSLC exams cannot be treated lightly. Announcing that a subject will not be counted when exams are already underway is nothing short of a betrayal of students' efforts," he said.

He pointed out that such a decision should have been taken much earlier. "If this had been decided in January or February, it would have made some sense. Instead, reducing the total marks from 625 to 525 after exams have begun shows the government's lack of seriousness," he added. Calling the move "irresponsible and anti-student," Suresh Kumar said, "Declaring a subject irrelevant after students have prepared for it throughout the year reflects administrative weakness and a dangerous disregard for their future."

Move has been welcomed by several parents and students for reducing academic pressure

School associations have also raised concerns over the decision, terming it a "last-minute move" that has created confusion among students, parents and teachers. In a joint statement, they said, "The third language is not limited to Hindi alone; in many schools it includes options such as Kannada, Urdu, Arabic, Sanskrit, English and Marathi. It is not merely another subject, but plays a key role in building multilingual skills, intellectual growth and national integration."

D Shashi Kumar, General Secretary of Karnataka Associated Managements of English Medium Schools (KAMS) said, "Weakening the third language could impact trust in the State syllabus. Middle-class and out-of-state parents may increasingly move their children to other boards. This could further weaken Kannada-medium and State board schools, which are already under pressure." The associations also criticised the lack of consultation. "Decisions of such importance should not be taken unilaterally. The absence of stakeholder discussion reflects instability in policy-making," they said, urging the government to reconsider the move and adopt a more structured approach.

Reacting to this, CM Siddaramaiah said, "From this year onwards, Hindi as a third language will not be included in the marks calculation, and the total marks for SSLC will be reduced from 625 to 525. Any government decision may receive either support or opposition. The government does not oppose learning the Hindi language, but it should not be made compulsory for exam scoring."

Booklet shortage at SSLC centres?

Meanwhile, Kumar said, "A shortage of answer booklets was reported during the ongoing SSLC Mathematics exam at some centres, particularly in Bengaluru South, causing confusion among students and invigilators. Allegations have surfaced that insufficient booklets were supplied, forcing centres to arrange additional stock from other locations. We urge the authorities to verify the lapse and take corrective action to prevent disruption during examinations."

Third language, spanning options beyond Hindi, is vital for fostering multilingual skills, intellectual growth and national integration in schools, say school associations in joint statement

Schools to lead drive against rising obesity

With obesity on the rise among both children and adults, the Education Department has initiated steps to tackle the issue at the school level by appointing students as 'Health Ambassadors' and creating awareness early on. Concerns have been raised by the central government over unhealthy food habits and lack of physical activity, with reports indicating a sharp increase in overweight populations in India. To address this, schools are being directed to educate children about the risks of high sugar and oil consumption, promote healthier food choices, and encourage physical activity through awareness programmes, competitions and regular engagement. As part of the initiative, government and aided schools are instructed to install mandatory information boards highlighting the harmful effects of junk food, hidden fats and sugars in daily diets. Local gram panchayats are expected to support this effort, especially before the new academic year begins in June. The campaign also focuses on preventing lifestyle diseases such as Type 2 diabetes among children by reducing access to unhealthy snacks around school premises and promoting nutritious eating habits and simple exercises, in coordination with the Health Department. **— BMB**

400 EVs save 15.7 lakh litres of fuel annually in corporate fleets: Report

Amid ongoing global fuel price volatility driven by geopolitical tensions, new data from corporate mobility firm Routematic indicates that electric vehicle (EV) adoption in employee transportation fleets can significantly reduce fuel consumption and operating costs.

According to the company, its deployment of over 400 electric vehicles across Bengaluru and Pune has resulted in savings of approximately 65,400 litres of fuel every 15 days. At current fuel prices of around Rs 100 per litre, this translates to nearly Rs 65 lakh in cost savings over the same period. On an annual basis, Routematic estimates that its existing EV fleet could help avoid the consumption of over 15.7 lakh litres of fuel, leading to projected savings of more than Rs 15 crore, assuming current fuel prices remain stable. The company stated that these figures are based on operational data from its current EV deployments and reflect the potential financial benefits of partial fleet electrification. It added that a full transition to EVs could further enhance cost efficiencies. **— ANI**

Plastics banned at Muzrai temples

In a strict order, Bengaluru Rural Deputy Commissioner AB Basavaraju has banned the use and sale of 19 types of plastic items, including thermocol and plastic microbeads, in and around Muzrai temples across the district. The move aims to protect the flora, fauna, micro-organisms and overall natural surroundings of temple premises. Though the state has already prohibited manufacture and supply of several plastic products, there was no specific curb within temple areas. Devotees routinely carried pooja materials in plastic covers, leading to heaps of waste around temple premises, damaging the local environment. The fresh order seeks to restore cleanliness and preserve the natural beauty of these religious sites. Panchayat Development Officers have been made responsible for inspections at entry points, including checks for plastic water bottles, single use bottles, chips packets, plastic cups, spoons and flex materials. **— BMB**

Nearly 23% RO units defunct in B'luru

While 854 units have been restored since September last year, remaining 260 are yet to be fixed due to issues such as damaged pipes, dried-up borewells and poor upkeep

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As summer sets in and the demand for clean drinking water rises sharply, Bengaluru is staring at a troubling reality. Of the 1,114 RO drinking water units meant to serve the public, only 854 are currently operational, leaving 260 units, nearly 23 per cent, out of service at a time when dependence on them is at its peak.

Sources said that these RO plants are a critical source of affordable drinking water for low and middle-income households and roadside vendors who lack piped connections. But with groundwater levels dipping, the situation is worsening. As many as 139 borewells linked to these units have already run dry, disrupting supply in several areas. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), which took over these units in April 2025, has been working to revive them, but the pace has not matched the urgency on the ground.

Repair and maintenance began in September last year after the transfer of 1,114 RO plants and nearly 5,000 borewells. While 854 units have been restored so far, the remaining 260 are yet to be fixed due to issues such as damaged pipes, dried-up borewells and poor upkeep, including garbage dumping around facilities. In some localities, units remain shut, forcing residents to travel longer distances for water.

To tackle the drying borewells, BWSSB has opted against re-drilling, citing groundwater conservation.

Sources say these RO plants are a critical source of affordable drinking water for many who lack piped connections

Instead, it plans to supply Cauvery water through tankers to keep the RO units running. This measure will be extended to more units if additional borewells go dry in the coming weeks.

With nearly quarter of RO network non-functional and more borewells at risk, city's ability to provide affordable drinking water this summer remains under strain, raising concerns for thousands who depend on these units daily, says activist

A BWSSB official said, "For now, the price remains unchanged at Rs 5 for 20 litres, despite earlier discussions on standardising rates across the city. The system continues to run on a revenue-sharing model, with collections split between contractors and the Board in a 60:40 ratio. Contractors are expected to use half their share for maintenance, while BWSSB handles electricity and other expenses."

Residents, however, say the ground reality is far from reassuring. "We depend on these RO plants every day, especially in summer. But many times, they are either closed or there is no water. We end up buying expensive cans," said Ramesh Kumar, a daily wage worker in Padmanabhanagar. Lakshmi, who runs a small roadside eatery, said, "Earlier, we could easily get water for cooking and drinking. Now we have to wait or go to another area. It affects our work."

Plans to introduce UPI and prepaid card systems are still in the works, with most units continuing to rely on coins. Officials say digital options may take more time to be fully rolled out. Nandu Gowda, an activist said, "With nearly a quarter of the RO network non-functional and more borewells at risk, the city's ability to provide affordable drinking water this summer remains under strain, raising concerns for thousands who depend on these units daily."

Six-year-old girl kidnapped, strangled to death

A six-year-old girl was allegedly kidnapped and murdered in an incident reported under the jurisdiction of Electronic City Police Station.

The victim, Riviya (6), daughter of Rafeequlla, a native of Assam, was living with her parents in a shed near Vittasandra, Begur. Her father works as a scrap collector and also as a cleaner in a Begur apartment.

According to police, the deceased went missing on Thursday night. Her parents searched the neighbourhood but could not trace her, and subsequently filed a missing complaint with the Electronic City police on Friday afternoon.

During the search operation, police discovered the girl's body around 10.30 pm at Vittagana village. Preliminary investigations indicate she was kidnapped, strangled, and her body dumped in the isolated area. Police suspect personal enmity as a possible motive, though it remains unconfirmed. The body has been shifted to St John's Hospital for post-mortem examination.

A case of murder has been registered, and special teams have been formed to trace the accused. Further investigation is underway. **BMB**

Mistaken for another, youth kidnapped and assaulted

In a case of mistaken identity, a gang of armed youths allegedly kidnapped and assaulted a young man in broad daylight at Nagarahole Circle under Byadarahalli police limits, police said on Saturday.

The incident occurred on Tuesday between 5.30 pm and 6.15 pm, when the victim, Sharath, was standing near a roadside tea stall with his friend when three unidentified men approached them in an autorickshaw.

The accused reportedly enquired if Sharath was "Nataraj alias Nata." Despite his repeated denial, they allegedly accused him of lying and began assaulting him.

The gang then forcibly dragged the victim into the autorickshaw and fled. During the ordeal, he was repeatedly assaulted, with the attackers targeting his face, head and body. One of the accused allegedly used a knife to strike him with its blunt side, causing injuries.

In a disturbing turn, the accused reportedly used Sharath's phone to call his sister and verbally abused her. Upon later checking his phone, they realised he was not their intended target and released him midway after threatening him against approaching the police.

The victim later filed a complaint at Byadarahalli Police Station. Police have registered a case of assault and launched a manhunt.

A video of the incident, captured by a passerby, has gone viral, raising concerns over public safety in the city. **BMB**

Professor suspended over alleged Islamophobic remark in classroom

A controversy has erupted at PES University after a professor was accused of making communal remarks against a student during a classroom session, prompting an FIR against him and swift disciplinary action.

The university has suspended the faculty member, identified as Dr Muralidhar Deshpande, pending inquiry. According to a complaint, the professor allegedly humiliated a Muslim student, Affan, by calling him a "terrorist" multiple times in front of nearly 60 students.

He is also accused of making derogatory statements linking the student to ongoing global conflicts such as "Iran war happened because of people like you," using abusive language and creating a hostile classroom environment.

The issue has been further complicated by allegations that CCTV footage from the classroom, considered key evidence, was deleted, raising concerns over transparency.

A complaint filed by the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) led the Girinagar police to register a Non-Cognisable Report (NCR). Police officials stated that further action would depend on the response from the college management.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South Division) Lokesh B Jagalasar confirmed that the student had approached police and that action would follow due process. **BMB**

5 arrested for importing fake cigarettes

Kempegowda International Airport Police have busted an interstate counterfeit cigarette racket operating through international routes and arrested five accused, including a father-son duo. Police seized fake branded cigarettes worth approximately Rs 50 lakh.

The arrested have been identified as Abdul Bashid, a resident of HRBR Layout, his son Mohammad Ashiq, along with Mohammad Anwar Ibrahim, Mohammad Atar Ansari, and Ghulam Hussain, all hailing from Chennai.

Police seized fake branded cigarettes worth approximately Rs 50 lakh, which were allegedly imported from Cambodia and other foreign locations. The operation was initiated following a complaint by N Rajesh, a field executive with Anvesh IPR Services, associated with ITC, regarding the circulation of counterfeit cigarettes in the market under reputed brand names.

Acting on specific intelligence, the police apprehended the accused on Saturday morning and recovered around 20 boxes of counterfeit cigarettes. Investigations revealed that the network sourced fake products from countries including Cambodia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Singapore at low prices and distributed them across Bengaluru, Chennai and Telangana for substantial profits.

Police have registered a case of copyright infringement. Officials warned that such counterfeit products not only cause financial losses to legitimate companies but also pose serious health risks to consumers. Further investigation is ongoing. **BMB**

Dirty, damaged footbridge raises safety concerns for commuters

Commuters highlight safety risks on damaged footbridge, urging authorities to fix tiles, clean stains and improve maintenance across high footfall area

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The he Kempegowda Bus Station foot over bridge has been making headlines for the wrong reasons. Recently, it became a hangout for sex workers and transgenders, prompting the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and local police to intervene and curb the activity. Now, the bridge is back in the news due to unhygienic conditions, with red spit stains and missing tiles posing risks to pedestrians. Commuters distracted by mobile phones are especially vulnerable, highlighting negligence in maintenance and urgent need for repairs and cleaning.

"It is quite amusing and shocking to come across missing tiles at different locations on the foot over bridge which is meant for only people who visit the BMTC Bus Station or the nearby Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station. The missing or broken tiles on the foot over bridge expose the apathy and negligence of the authorities. The need of the hour is to replace broken tiles with new ones for the benefit of BMTC commuters," said Ashok Naidu P, a BMTC commuter.

Demanding the BMTC authorities to fix the problem as early as possible for the benefit of thousands of people who visit the BMTC Bus Station, Raghava S, a BMTC commuter, has said the broken and missing tiles make senior citizens vulnerable to trip and fall accidents.

(1) & (2) Missing tiles on the foot over bridge pose danger to pedestrians; (3) Red stains on the foot over bridge

"I am very happy to see the foot over bridge is from some women and transgenders known for creating nuisance. I want the BMTC authorities to fix the issue of broken and missing tiles on the foot over bridge," said Raghava.

Expressing concern over rampant paan spitting on the Kempegowda Bus Station foot over bridge, Suresh Kumar G, a BMTC commuter, said red stains are visible at multiple locations across the bridge. "It is shameful that people indulge in paan spitting at a public place used by thousands every day. The foot over bridge offers a clear view of the BMTC and KSRTC Bus Stations, and I have no objection to people standing there, but spitting is unacceptable. I urge BMTC authorities to deploy workers to clean the red stains and ensure the bridge remains neat and hygienic," Suresh Kumar said.

However, BMTC Depot Traffic Officer has assured to investigate the matter. "It is difficult to keep a vigil on those spitting paan on the foot over bridge. I will ask my subordinates to engage workers to remove all red stains on the foot over bridge," said the Depot Traffic Officer.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Pedestrian hazard

RV Road

Footpaths near RV Road Metro Station's north end, at 4th and 5th Main and 38th Cross, are blocked due to Metro encroachment. Commuters are forced onto the road, creating significant safety risks for pedestrians.

Traffic disruption

Marathahalli

Ongoing water pipeline works on the main road in Spice Garden, Marathahalli, have been causing significant traffic congestion for over a month, prompting residents to urge BWSSB to expedite completion.

Divorce petitioners in State must go through 60-day mediation period

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

grounds to dissolve a marriage under the prevailing laws, he explained. The more serious matters extend to physical domestic abuse, infidelity, and in rare cases, unsoundness of mind. In Karnataka, it is mandatory for every petition for divorce to be referred to mediation. As per the rules, a 60-day time period is set for the parties to try resolve their disputes, the timeline of which can be extended by the court if the parties intend to make peace and resume their matrimonial lives in the interest of themselves and their children. "There is no fixed timeline when it comes to contested divorce petitions. The matter can be settled during mediation if parties choose not to litigate. In such cases, which are usually rare, it would take 2–3 months for the divorce to be finalised," said Krupakar.

In his experience, a very small percentage of 1 in 100 contested divorces come to a settlement. "Some matters tend to settle after the couples see the harm caused due to litigation. Hence, it is important to assess compatibility of partners planning to get married," he said. Courts take into consideration the age and gender of the child; however, what is most important in any given case is the 'Paramount Welfare of the Child' principle that is uniformly applied by the courts, an expert explained.

When the child is below six years of age, the courts generally grant custody to the mother, since the law presumes that the mother would be in the best position to provide wholesome care and grant the father visitation rights, and in some cases shared holidays and vacations. However, if one of the parties can demonstrate to the court's satisfaction why the best interest of the child may not be served with the custodial parent, the court, looking into the circumstances, may grant custody to the non-custodial parent if that would best take care of the child's needs. Co-parenting is possible if the parents choose to seek divorce by mutual consent, he said.

Emotional impact

According to Dr. Shree Lakshmi Mallya, psychiatrist with Trilife Hospital, the rise in the number of divorces is significantly affecting children, who often become the most neglected part of the situation. "As there has been a high rise in parental separation and divorce, the worst hit are children," she said. Parents often do not freely communicate the reasons for separation, which leads to frustration and confusion in children, resulting in anxiety, depressive symptoms, and anger outbursts, she said.

"Children internalise divorce differently depending on their developmental stage. For young children, when the reasons for separation are not explained, they grow up hearing different versions of the story. This may lead to hatred, frustration, and even depression, sometimes worsened by negative comments from family members or bullying from peers in school," said Dr Mallya.

Adolescents face a different struggle as they are still dependent on their parents and may feel pressured to choose between them. This often results in withdrawal, anger, and apprehension, while some may resort to substance use and show a gradual decline in academic performance. Young adults are usually more understanding as they can comprehend the situation better, though they may still struggle emotionally as family events and holidays become divided. Dr. Mallya noted that the long-term impact depends largely on how co-parenting is handled.

If co-parenting is done with proper guidance, the child may eventually come to terms with the situation and form healthier relationships in the future. However, if there is manipulation or bad-mouthing of the other parent, the child may develop anxious or avoidant attachment patterns due to the absence of a healthy relationship model. During separation, many children feel neglected and turn to online spaces, social media, or even AI platforms to seek answers and reassurance. While these responses may appear comforting, over time this can lead to social withdrawal, increased screen dependence, reduced social skills and coping ability, and in rare cases reinforcement of misinterpretations leading to severe psychological distress, the doctor said.

"Early warning signs include declining academic grades, school refusal, social withdrawal, restlessness, anger outbursts, frequent illness, and poor hygiene.These signs should be noticed by caregivers, teachers or parents as they could become alarming," Dr Mallya said.

In severe cases, children exposed to prolonged conflict or violence may experience anxiety, depression, or PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), sometimes coping through aggression, bullying, substance abuse, or self-harm. In such situations, professional psychiatric intervention, therapy, and parental counselling become essential to help the child recover.

THE SUNDAY READ

Dense web, unravelled

Cyber forensic expert decodes process behind nabbing the slipperiest customers of them all

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As technology steadfasts in the tech capital of India, Bengaluru, cybercrimes are undergoing a rapid transformation, with investigators increasingly relying on digital forensics to keep pace with the ever evolving threats. Cyber forensic expert and Digital Forensic and Incident Response (DFIR) specialist N Vishnu Venkatesh is a sought-after resource person for academic institutions, government organisations and cyber security training programmes. A great deal of his work revolves around network forensics, malware analysis, cyber threat intelligence and AI-driven forensic investigations.

He has 13 published patents including 6 granted patents, majorly focusing on innovative forensic hardware systems, cyber investigation tools and tactical security technologies. He shares the nature of cyber offences that have shifted from isolated attacks to highly sophisticated and technology-driven operations.

"Bengaluru, being a tech hub, has seen an increase of organised cybercrimes, with the rise of UPI fraud, phishing attacks targeting corporate employees, alongside AI-based scams such as voice cloning normalising," he said, adding that attackers have become more organised in their approach and almost operate like a structured business.

Right at the beginning of the year, Bengaluru reported 2,007 cybercrime cases, out of which two have been solved and 17 accused faced arrests as of February. The city reported a crushing rise in cybercrime cases in 2023 with 22,255 cybercrime cases, out of which 1,704 found their closure, with 1,098 individuals arrested. In 2024, it saw a minute increase with 22,483 cases, with 1,339 cases solved and 1,036 individuals arrested. The year 2025 saw a positive drop in reported cybercrime cases to 14,899 cases, where a total of 701 cases were solved with 761 arrests counted.

Venkatesh explained that this deflecting data has changed the way investigations are conducted. He explained that cybercrimes today often involve coordinated networks, sometimes operating across borders, which would require a shift from reactive investigation to intelligence-led approaches. "We now rely heavily on data correlation, predictive analysis and threat intelligence," he said.

Cybercrime investigators constantly face challenges as digital evidence is highly volatile, placing time at the centre of recovery processes. Venkatesh explained, "Logs can be overwritten, temporary files get deleted, and encrypted data can be wiped off remotely. Minute delays of a day or two can result in major loss of critical evidence." He pointed out that a rapid response and immediate preservation is critical in solving cases effectively.

Venkatesh has been conducting training with several agencies such as Hindustan Aeronautical Ltd (HAL), Corps of Military Police (CMP), Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA), academic institutions, and police officers from various states like Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to help strengthen the investigative process through network forensics and communication analysis. He has actively contributed to cybercrime investigations by advising law enforcement agencies on over 200 cases and has trained over 500 law enforcement officers and cyber security professionals in digital evidence recovery and cyber investigation methodologies. He has also secured two major research projects supported by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.

Cybercrimes today often involve coordinated networks, sometimes operating across borders, which would require shift from reactive investigation to intelligence-led approaches, says expert

N Vishnu Venkatesh, cyber forensics expert

In a groundbreaking investigation, he shared that a cyber fraud case reached a dead end due to money being routed through multiple mule accounts, but a breakthrough appeared through digital forensics. According to him, what changed the direction was network and communication analysis. "We examined the Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call patterns and analysed Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) headers while correlating Internet Protocol (IP) logs; this approach helped us trace fraudulent calls back to a common infrastructure, which led to the individuals at the crux of this default," he said.

Despite new approaches and new technology, he pointed out gaps that still exist in the way digital evidence is handled on the ground level. "Devices are often accessed directly instead of being forensically imaged, which can alter evidence. Chain of custody is another area where there are black spots," he said. He urged citizens to practise basic procedural awareness as it can significantly improve outcomes and aid in self protection. "Treat every digital device like a fragile crime scene, preserve it first and analyse it later," he said.

On sharing his work, he said that Artificial Intelligence has started to play a big role in digital forensics, as it helps process large volumes of data. He shared that AI is integrated in areas such as log analysis, anomaly detection and malware classification, which improves speed and efficiency. He mentioned that AI is not the complete solution as it cannot always explain anomalies that are deemed suspicious and is restricted to just flagging them, making human intervention necessary in this regard.

Apart from software-driven approaches, Venkatesh's work revolves around developing hardware-based forensic solutions aimed at improving evidence acquisition. He mentioned tools like VoIP analysers or custom forensic modules can directly intercept and decode communication data. This systematic measure can help aid in evidence collection in a forensically sound manner, which is crucial for legal admissibility.

Areas such as drone forensics and counter surveillance are emerging and gaining relevance, although they too come with their own set of challenges. "Drone ecosystems are highly fragmented and there are no standardised forensic procedures yet. To add to the layer, encryption adds another level of complexity," he noted.

He mentioned that despite advancements, adoption of such technologies across police departments remains uneven, usually due to budget constraints, lack of trained personnel and infrastructure limitations, to name a few. Talking about his training programmes with law enforcement officers, he mentioned that the training programmes are very hands-on and focus on real world scenarios with case simulations and practical usage of tools rather than just theory.

This aids officers without technical backgrounds and helps them grow into becoming problem solvers with the right knowledge; the simplified training emphasises usability and application.

"Transition from traditional investigation methods to digital forensics can initially be challenging, as the biggest challenge is the technical learning curve," he said.

However, once officers begin to see results, they become more receptive. This, in turn, has seen improvements in case resolution rates with faster turnaround time and better evidence handling. "The training translates into practical efficiency here, as the programmes are designed on real case scenarios officers are likely to encounter in the field; this definitely bridges the gaps," he noted.

Despite positive response, Venkatesh believes there is still a significant gap in infrastructure and preparedness. He stressed the need to have standardised training, better equipped laboratories, and continuous skill development programmes in order to better handle digital evidence and its interpretation. "Cybercrime is evolving rapidly and systems must keep pace," he said.

With the world shifting in technological innovations, he warned of the surge of AI-driven threats. "We are likely to see a rise in deep fakes, voice cloning and automated scams alongside IoT based attacks, and advanced ransomware will also increase, and they will continue to operate in sophisticated manners," he said.

As cybercrimes continue to pose a threat to law enforcement, Venkatesh's work reflects a broader shift in policing, one that is increasingly dependent on speed, technical expertise and the ability to interpret complex digital evidence. "Training, technology adoption and policy support will pivot law enforcement officers into staying ahead," he said, underlining the need for a more proactive approach in tackling cybercrimes.

GBA Budget 2026

Livelihood push drives B'luru North city budget

New civic budget highlights welfare schemes, boosting incomes of vendors and women while outlining strong revenue targets and improved urban system

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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E-vending vehicles for street vendors and women-run Sanjeevini cafes are among the key announcements in the maiden Bengaluru North City Corporation's 2026–27 budget, presented by Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar on Saturday. The budget outlines a mix of welfare measures, livelihood support and infrastructure priorities across seven assembly constituencies.

A sum of ₹7.10 crore has been set aside to provide e-vending vehicles to street vendors, aimed at improving their earnings and formalising small businesses. For women, ₹1.27 crore has been allocated, including sewing machines for about 400 trained beneficiaries and ₹50 lakh for electric two-wheelers for working women. Under the National Livelihood Mission, ₹27 lakh will be used to set up "Akka Cafes" or "Cafe Sanjeevini," where women will run affordable food outlets in urban areas.

Support for other sections includes ₹1.28 crore for distributing tricycles to specially-abled persons and ₹1.58 crore for electric wheelchairs for around 110 beneficiaries. The transgender community has been allocated ₹73 lakh, with provisions for one-time financial assistance of up to ₹50,000 for self-employment. The corporation has also earmarked ₹1.10 crore for maintenance of night shelters for the homeless.

E vending vehicles aim to boost street vendor incomes

Under the National Livelihood Mission, 27 lakh will be used to set up "Akka Cafes" or "Cafe Sanjeevini," where women will run affordable food outlets in urban areas

Revenue plans

The corporation has set significant revenue targets for the coming financial year. Property tax is expected to generate ₹826.25 crore, with additional income from stamp duty, development charges and new property registrations. Conversion of B-Register properties to A-Khatha is projected to bring in nearly ₹680 crore.

Urban planning approvals, including building plan sanctions and occupancy certificates, are expected to generate ₹817.37 crore. Advertisement revenue is another major source, with new rules and tenders likely to fetch around ₹108 crore. The civic body has also proposed stricter penalties and legal action against unauthorised advertisements.

Waste measures

On the civic front, the budget includes plans to clean nearly 34 km of Bellary Road leading to the international airport. In Dasarahalli, around 600 tonnes of waste from farmlands will be transported for processing. In Hebbal, green waste is being converted into compost, with small-scale sales already underway.

System changes

Trade license procedures have been simplified and moved online to reduce delays, while steps are being taken to bring unauthorised establishments under the licensing system. A GIS-based property tax system is also planned to improve tracking and collection, along with a biometric attendance system for staff.

Skywalks, smart parking, roads transform city commutes

Budget prioritises mobility, lake revival, and infrastructure improvements while ensuring safety, convenience, and environmental focus for residents across B'luru South city limits

Road Information Management System to monitor and map entire city network

Pedestrian skywalks, smart parking, and road widening are key to Bengaluru South City Corporation's 2026–27 budget, aiming to reduce congestion and improve mobility. Commissioner Ramesh KN said the civic body proposes 18 pedestrian skywalks under the PPP model, including a ₹32 crore elevated skywalk connecting Banashankari Temple, Metro Station, and TTMC for safe and seamless pedestrian movement.

The civic body is also coordinating with Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited to explore automated multi-level parking at key metro stations. Road infrastructure will undergo major upgrades, including Bannerghatta Road from Dairy Circle to NICE Road and widening of Subramanyapura and Begur Main Roads at a combined ₹60 crore. Ongoing projects, such as the Ejipura Elevated Corridor, aim for completion by September 2026.

Lake revival

Water management and lake rejuvenation are major priorities. Treated water from sewage treatment plants will refill lakes like Ganapatipura, Kothanur, and Chunchaghatta, with plans to extend to Somasundarapalya, Mangammanapalya, and Gottigere. Authorities also aim to use treated wastewater from apartment complexes to maintain levels. Begur and Madiwala lakes will be developed with a tourism focus, including pilot boating facilities under the PPP model, as per the budget.

City works

Ramesh said that large-scale road and infrastructure upgrades worth ₹433 crore are underway under various schemes, including scientific asphalting, improved footpaths and drainage systems. A Road Information Management System will also be developed to map and monitor the entire road network for better planning. Beautification projects, including development of open spaces and installation of fountains at junctions, are planned in phases across the city.

Welfare focus

On the social front, the budget includes a ₹2 crore allocation to provide a marriage incentive of ₹1 lakh each to eligible daughters of pourakarmikas and manual scavengers. The corporation has also proposed rescue operations for injured animals and birds, along with measures to prevent human-animal conflict. A "Smruti Van" or memorial forest with medicinal plants is also planned within the corporation limits.

Governance plans

To strengthen administration, a special vigilance squad will be formed to check tax evasion, illegal constructions and encroachments. Internship opportunities will be offered to research scholars to improve collaboration between academia and civic administration. The budget estimates total receipts of ₹3,826.43 crore and expenditure of ₹3,825.95 crore, projecting a marginal surplus. **–BMB**

Miyawaki forests and smart parks lead budget focus

Green spaces, mobility upgrades and smart schools take priority as Bengaluru West budget outlines plans for inclusive development and improved urban infrastructure

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From Miyawaki forests to specially-abled-friendly parks, the Bengaluru West City Corporation's 2026–27 budget focuses on expanding green cover and improving public spaces. Presented by Commissioner Dr Rajendra K V yesterday, it proposes developing 100 Miyawaki forests across parks, schools and roadside vacant spaces using native species. Each division will get a specially-abled-friendly park, along with plans for animal parks and senior citizen libraries. To support water conservation, ₹2 crore has been allocated to install rainwater harvesting systems in 20 parks, with each unit costing ₹10 lakh.

Mobility plans

The budget outlines mobility measures, with cycle tracks planned at five locations in each division, including Nayandahalli Lake. Key roads such as Ittamadu Road, Kurubarahalli Main Road, Hosakerehalli Main Road and Thyagarajanagar Main Road will be widened. ₹2 crore has been earmarked for improving Goraguntepalya junction on Tumakuru Road.

Parks development receives major funding boost in budget plan

Land measures

To facilitate infrastructure projects, a dedicated Land Acquisition and TDR Cell has been set up. ₹20 crore has been allocated for land acquisition to support road widening, junction development, commercial assets and multi-level parking. The corporation is also working on a revised master plan with other city corporations.

In the social sector, five government schools in Basavanagudi, Vijayanagara and Srirampur will be upgraded into 'Smart Schools' to improve facilities

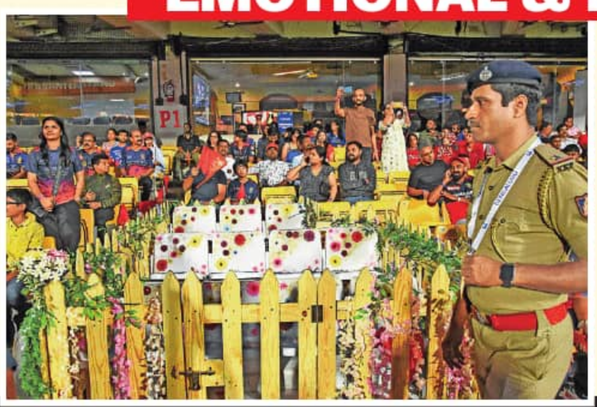
Social focus

In the social sector, five government schools in Basavanagudi, Vijayanagara and Srirampur will be upgraded into 'Smart Schools' to improve facilities. Parks in Mahalaxmi Layout, including Anjaneya Temple Park and Kuvempu Park, will see development with ₹5 crore. Plans also include pay-and-use electric vehicle charging stations at civic properties.

System reforms

On the administrative front, the corporation plans to digitise all financial transactions through integrated systems to ensure real-time tracking. An Audit Cell will also be set up to strengthen transparency and accountability in civic operations. The total budget for 2026–27 is pegged at ₹4,732.81 crore, with ₹2,834.67 crore allocated for capital expenditure.

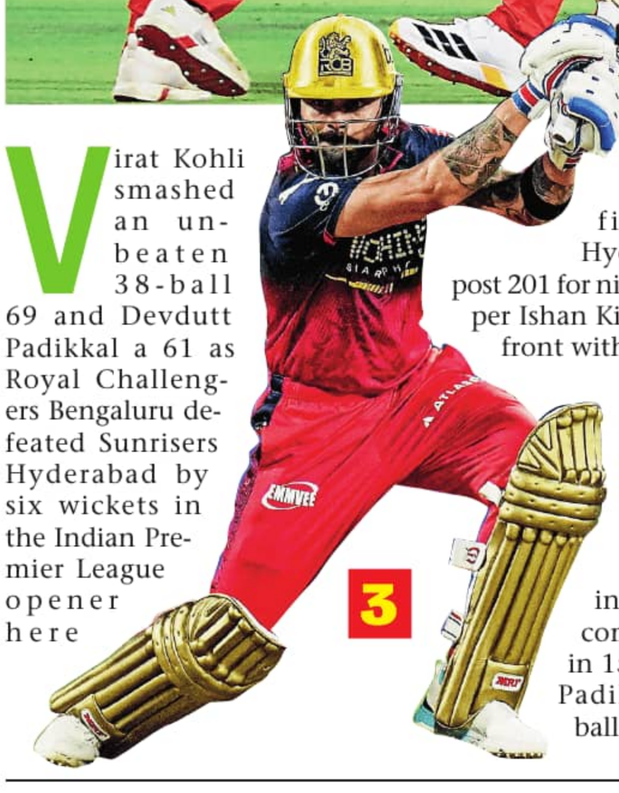
EMOTIONAL & EXUBERANT



Spectators observe a minute's silence to pay tribute to 11 Royal Challengers Bengaluru fans who lost their lives in a stampede last year; Police personnel stand guard near eleven seats kept vacant as a tribute to fans who lost their lives; Sunrisers Hyderabad cheerleaders perform during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match; Spectators cheer before the match

IPL opener was mix of joy and sombre thoughts as home team defeats SRH

KOHLI FIRES IN RCB'S 6-WICKET WIN



1. RCB Jacob Duffy and team celebrate after taking wicket of Travis Head of Sun Risers Hyderabad
2. Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Devdutt Padikkal celebrates his fifty runs
3. Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli plays a shot

Virat Kohli smashed an unbeaten 38-ball 69 and Devdutt Padikkal a 61 as Royal Challengers Bengaluru defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by six wickets in the Indian Premier League opener here on Saturday.

Asked to bat first, Sunrisers Hyderabad rallied to post 201 for nine as stand-in skipper Ishan Kishan led from the front with a 38-ball 80 after his side was reduced to 29 for three in the fifth over. Ankit Verma chipped in 43 off just 18 balls.

In reply, defending champions RCB completed the chase in 15.4 overs. Devdutt Padikkal (61 off 26 balls), Kohli and Rajat Patidar (31 off 12 balls) were the chief contributors with the bat for RCB.Debutant Jacob Duffy was the best bowler for RCB, returning excellent figures of 3/22 in four overs.

Today's battle
Mumbai Indians vs Kolkata Knight Riders
7.30 PM | Mumbai

Kishan's 80, Aniket's 43 powers Sunrisers Hyderabad to 201

Sunrisers Hyderabad rode on captain Ishan Kishan's fluent 80 off 38 balls and a blazing late flourish from Aniket Verma (43 off just 18 balls) to post 201/9 in their 20 overs against defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL 2026 opening game at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday.

Asked to bat first on a two-paced pitch, SRH lost three wickets in power-play, but then a solid 97-run stand off 53 balls between an in-form Kishan and Heinrich Klaasen (31) steadied them. After that, SRH lost wickets in a cluster again, but thanks to Aniket's sparkling cameo showcasing his six-hitting prowess, the side went past 200-mark.

Sunrisers Hyderabad's Indian cricket player Ishan Kishan celebrates after scoring a half-century (50 runs)

For RCB, Jacob Duffy shined on IPL debut by executing his back of the length balls well to pick 3-22, while Romario Shepherd grabbed 3-54. Put in to bat, SRH endured a jittery start. The innings began with drama right from the word go as Duffy removed Abhishek Sharma when a top-edge on pull was caught by Jitesh Sharma.

Duffy came back to have Travis Head pull straight to deep square leg and had Nitish Kumar Reddy out in the same fashion to give RCB the upper hand. Kishan then took charge, blending watchful defence with calculated aggression. He rebuilt the innings with crisp strokeplay, finding gaps and punishing loose deliveries from Abhinandan Singh and Suyash Sharma.

His fifty came off just 32 balls, as he cleared boundary ropes with ease in his knock laced with eight fours and five sixes. But RCB bowlers continued to chip away, as Klaasen was caught by Phil Salt awkwardly taking a catch close to the boundary rope, though many felt he had touched the boundary rope.

After Suyash took out Salil Arora, Kishan's dismissal for a sparkling 80 became a turning point, as Salt made a full stretch dive to his right to take a one-handed screamer off Abhinandan's bowling.

With Harsh Dubey and Harshal Patel falling cheaply, Aniket turned the tide by launching a fearless counterattack laced with three fours and four sixes, with Shepherd being punished ruthlessly. Though Shepherd took out Aniket in the 19th over, SRH managed to cross 200-mark and set up a stiff chase for RCB under lights in front of their faithful Chinnaswamy crowd.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

VIVID KINGFISHER

Our reader shares a stunning capture of a White-throated Kingfisher at Sarakki Lake, perched with a leaf, signaling a healthy ecosystem through its need for clean water to hunt fish.

The picture was clicked by reader **Venkatalakshmi S**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Trash takeover: Bengaluru's streets get major cleanup

Special drives combined with routine cleaning can tackle chronic dumping points, prevent black spots, and maintain long-term cleanliness efficiently

Guess how much garbage gets accumulated along Bengaluru's roadsides? In a single clean-up drive yesterday, civic authorities removed a staggering 35 truckloads of waste from just 9.62 km of city stretches, exposing the scale of roadside dumping in core areas.

The Bengaluru Central City Corporation carried out the special cleanliness drive on March 28 across multiple congested localities, where garbage had piled up along footpaths, drains, and road margins, turning several spots into chronic dumping zones. Commissioner Rajendra Cholan said such large volumes underline the need for sustained action. "Continuous and collective cleanliness drives are essential to eliminate black spots and prevent encroachment of footpaths. Only consistent efforts can ensure long-term results," he said.

The operation covered six Assembly constituencies: Chamarajapet, Chickpet, Gandhinagar, Shantinagar, Shivajinagar, and CV Raman Nagar; focussing on high-footfall areas such as market roads, hospital surroundings, and busy junctions. Officials deployed seven JCB machines and 30 tractors to clear accumulated waste. Twelve major black spots were completely eliminated during the operation, with 162 pourakarmikas and sanitation staff taking part.

> **"People must avoid throwing waste on roadsides and instead hand it over to designated auto-tippers. Public cooperation is critical to maintaining a clean and healthy city**
>
> – Rajendra Cholan, Commissioner

The clean-up revealed widespread and repeated dumping in several areas, including Avenue Road, Cubbonpet, Domlur, and Jeevan Bheemanagar, where garbage had built up over time, affecting hygiene and pedestrian movement. "Special drives, along with routine cleaning, help us identify and remove persistent dumping points. Our focus is on ensuring these areas do not revert to their earlier condition," Cholan added.

He also urged citizens to change disposal habits. "People must avoid throwing waste on roadsides and instead hand it over to designated auto-tippers. Public cooperation is critical to maintaining a clean and healthy city," he said. The operation, conducted under Additional Commissioner (Development) Daljit Kumar, involved multiple departments including engineering, solid waste management, and horticulture.

While the immediate clean-up cleared visible waste, officials acknowledge that the sheer volume removed from a limited stretch highlights a larger systemic issue, pointing to the need for stricter monitoring and sustained civic discipline across Bengaluru. **— BMB**

Public cooperation essential to ensure long-term cleanliness and healthy city

DID YOU KNOW?

NASA's Artemis astronauts have entered final preparations for the agency's first crewed mission to the Moon in more than 50 years, marking a major milestone in human spaceflight. The four-member crew arrived at Kennedy Space Center in Florida and could launch as early as April 1 aboard the Space Launch System rocket. The mission, known as Artemis II, will last about 10 days and send astronauts on a high-speed journey around the Moon in the Orion spacecraft. It is designed to test critical systems including life support, navigation and the spacecraft's heat shield before future missions attempt a lunar landing. Commander Reid Wiseman, pilot Victor Glover, mission specialist Christina Koch and Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen have trained for more than two years and are now in quarantine ahead of launch. The flight will not include a Moon landing but is expected to set milestones, including sending the first woman, first Black astronaut and first non-American beyond low Earth orbit. Artemis II is part of NASA's broader Artemis programme aimed at establishing a sustained human presence on the Moon and preparing future missions to Mars.

— Reuters

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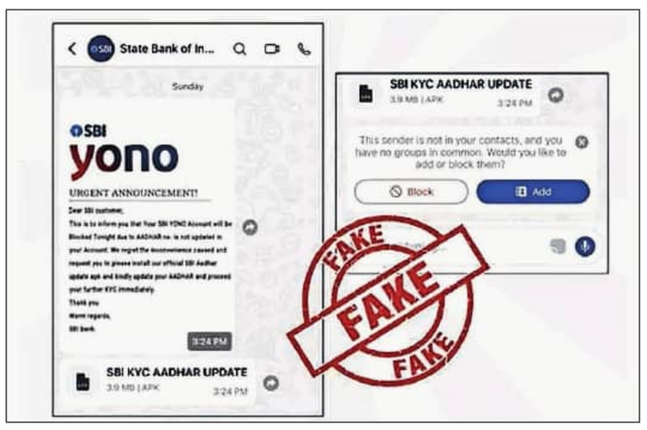
Fake SBI YONO message warns of account block, PIB flags phishing scam

THE CLAIM: A message circulating on social media claims that State Bank of India YONO app accounts will be blocked if users do not immediately update Aadhaar details by downloading an APK file called SBI KYC AADHAR UPDATE. The message urges customers to install the file to avoid service disruption and complete verification process.
FACT: The claim is false. PIB Fact Check has confirmed that the message is fraudulent and not issued by SBI. The bank has clarified it does not require customers to download APK files for Aadhaar updates. Such messages are phishing attempts designed to steal personal and banking information from unsuspecting users.

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) has flagged a fake message circulating on social media that claims State Bank of India's (SBI) YONO app accounts will be blocked if users do not update their Aadhaar details immediately. The purported message instructs recipients to download an APK file titled "SBI KYC AADHAR UPDATE" and install it to avoid disruption of services. The warning, which appears to be a phishing attempt, is designed to mislead account holders into sharing sensitive banking and personal information. PIB Fact Check clarified that such messages are fraudulent and not issued by the SBI. The official X handle of SBI has also confirmed that the bank does not require customers to download APK files for Aadhaar updates. In the fake message, users are allegedly addressed as "Dear SBI customer" and are informed that their YONO account will be blocked due to incomplete Aadhaar details. They are then urged to



download the APK file to complete the update. However, experts warn that downloading such files from unverified sources could compromise the security of smartphones and lead to unauthorised access to personal and financial data.

"Customers should be extremely cautious and avoid downloading apps from unknown links or APK files shared through emails, SMS, or WhatsApp," PIB Fact Check advised. "Do not share personal, banking, or Aadhaar-related information with unverified sources." The SBI has also set up a dedicated email – report.phishing@sbi.co.in – where customers can report suspicious messages. Cybersecurity analysts recommend that users always verify messages through official bank channels or apps before taking any action.

This incident highlights the growing trend of phishing attacks targeting banking customers, particularly through messaging platforms like WhatsApp. Authorities urge vigilance as such scams often exploit fear of account suspension to trick users into sharing sensitive information. With the rise of digital banking and the widespread use of apps like YONO, users are advised to remain alert to unsolicited messages and rely only on verified updates from official channels. **— IANS**

450-bed govt hospital for kids opens up in B'luru

The Karnataka government has constructed a massive, state-of-the-art 450-bed children's hospital at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Minister Sharan Prakash Patil said on Saturday.

Speaking after inaugurating the new hospital, Patil said it has been built to provide advanced care and treatment for children.

The Medical Education Minister described the hospital as a "first-of-its-kind" government-run super-speciality facility in the country, assuring that patients from other states will receive equally advanced care.

Patil urged the public to make full use of the facility, noting that 100 per cent quality healthcare is available only in government hospitals.

The institution currently operates 450 beds, treating approximately 1,78,000 outpatients and 21,000 inpatients annually, while performing around 5,000 surgeries, a statement from Patil's office said.

The Siddaramaiah-led government is establishing medical colleges in all districts of the state, with about 90% of the target already achieved. Only four or five districts remain, which will be completed soon, the minister claimed. He further said that, on the lines of the Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, NIMHANS-model institutes and Endocrinology Centres will be established in Mysuru and Kalaburagi.

A dedicated children's hospital will also be built in Kalaburagi at a cost of Rs 100 crore, modelled on the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital, he added. Patil stated that tertiary care treatment is available only in government hospitals. **–PTI**

Marital dreams turn sour, end in con soup

Man loses ₹58.44 lakh in investment scam, while fake groom decamps with valuables

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Both cases involve people who were looking to get married

Two separate matrimony-linked frauds have dealt blows to two victims from Bengaluru. A 52-year-old lost ₹58.44 lakh in an online investment scam and a woman was duped by a man posing as a groom, who fled with gold and cash after gaining her trust, police said on Saturday.

According to the first complaint, the man came in contact with a woman identified as Ritika Dev on the Happn app on November 6, 2024. The two began conversing regularly and discussed marriage. During their interaction on WhatsApp, the accused allegedly persuaded the victim to invest in online trading, promising high returns. She shared a link to a trading platform and convinced him to initially invest ₹40,000, from which he received a profit of ₹10,000, gaining his trust.

IN FOCUS
Matrimony frauds

Subsequently, the victim transferred ₹58.44 lakh through multiple bank accounts via IMPS, RTGS, and UPI transactions. When he attempted to withdraw the funds, he was asked to deposit more money. A case has been registered in Whitefield Cybercrime Police Station under relevant sections of the IT Act and BNS at the cybercrime police station. Further investigation is underway.

In the other case in Bommanahalli police station limits, a woman has filed a complaint alleging that a man posing as a prospective groom duped her and fled with gold and cash from her residence. The complainant, who is living separately from her husband, had created a profile on a matrimony platform for her second marriage through her daughter.

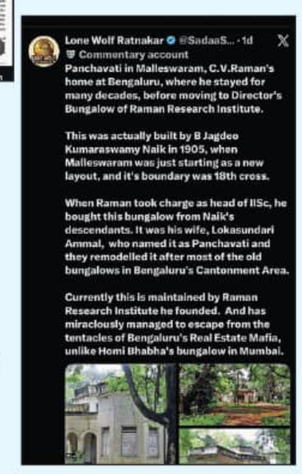
According to police, the accused, identified as Shivraj, contacted her through the platform and introduced himself as an army officer in his profile. He had agreed to marry her and later visited her house on February 16, 2026, around 9:40 pm. He stayed for two days, during which marriage discussions took place. However, on February 18 at around noon, Shivraj allegedly left the house and decamped with 26 grams of gold earrings worth approximately ₹2 lakh and ₹1.75 lakh in cash.

The victim later realised the theft and approached the police, seeking action against the accused. A case has been registered, and efforts are underway to trace the suspect.

SOCIALTATTLE

BANGALORE MIRROR MENTIONED

A powerful glimpse from Bangalore Mirror highlighting women redefining strength and lifting each other up



WHAT'S TWEETING

A quiet legacy of C. V. Raman lives on in Bengaluru's Panchavati, where history, science, and the city's past still breathe

THAT WENT VIRAL

A social media user put up this picture of a message in an auto, where the driver is promising free rides to all those wearing RCB jerseys.

Bear necessities

Villagers from Kodamballi in Channapatna, Ramanagar-Bengaluru south district, caught a bear that attacked two youths on Saturday morning. The bear had injured the youths riding a motorbike near the village. According to sources, villagers used a large net to catch the bear and handed it over to the forest department

WAR UPDATES

2 India-bound LPG tankers crossing Strait of Hormuz

Two liquefied petroleum gas tankers, BW Elm and BW Tyr, are crossing the Strait of Hormuz bound for India, according to ship tracking data from LSEG and Kpler.

The US-Israeli war against Iran has all but halted shipping through the strait, but Iran said this week that "non-hostile vessels" may transit the waterway if they coordinate with Iranian authorities.

The two India-flagged vessels have crossed the Gulf area and are in the eastern Strait of Hormuz, the data showed.

India is gradually moving its stranded LPG cargoes out from the strait, with four LPG tankers moved so far - Shivalik, Nanda Devi, Pine Gas, and Jag Vasant.

As of Friday, 20 Indian-flagged ships including five LPG carriers were stranded in the Gulf, Rajesh Kumar Sinha, special secretary in the federal shipping ministry, said.

LPG carriers Jag Vikram, Green Asha and Green Sanvi are still in the western Strait of Hormuz, LSEG data show. **-Reuters**

Pilot body urges DGCA to suspend flights in high-risk zones

Pilot body Airline Pilots' Association of India (ALPA) on Saturday urged the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to suspend commercial operations into high-risk conflict zones in West Asia and to mandate disclosure and verification of valid insurance coverage for crew.

ALPA urged the regulator to continue suspension until completion of a centralised, authoritative risk assessment.

It wanted binding directives to be imposed aligned with international best practices and intelligence inputs for operations near active conflict areas.

According to the association, commercial carriers lack the intelligence, surveillance and geopolitical risk-assessment capabilities to evaluate threats in active war zones and delegating such assessments to them creates inconsistent safety standards.

In a letter to the DGCA, the pilot association cited previous incidents of civilian airlines being shot down in the fog of war to highlight risks to safety of passengers, flight crew while operating in West Asia. **-IANS**

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personal

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SHOPPING MART

Water bowls must be cleaned, whitewashed, dried every 10 days

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

another layer of caution, particularly where many birds gather at the same source," said Dr. Ashritha Carlo, Senior Wildlife Veterinarian at Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC), a city-based NGO working for animal welfare.

ARRC says it has recorded 420 cases of these infections in birds this year alone. While these numbers cannot be directly attributed to the use of water bowls, human interventions such as water bowls, feeders, etc., without adequate ecological understanding, can exaggerate the problem. At best, a bowl of water is a temporary stopgap. At worst, if neglected, it can pose a serious risk.

"The idea of placing water outdoors is widely encouraged, but the daily maintenance required to keep it safe is rarely emphasised. Water bowls, in reality, do little to address the larger ecological problem. Heat

stress in urban birds is shaped primarily by how cities are built, through the loss of tree cover, shrinking water bodies, reduced shade, and declining ecological space," added Subiksha Venkatesh, Lead Wildlife Rehabilitator, ARRC.

Those who choose to keep water out also must pay attention to maintenance, experts say. These bowls must be scrubbed and refilled, placed in shade, and monitored regularly.

According to Dr. (Colonel) Nawaz Shariff, chief veterinarian at PFA Wildlife Hospital, the water bowls should be cleaned, whitewashed, and dried every 10 days or so.

"If possible, the bowls should be whitewashed and dried for a couple of days before refilling them. Stagnant water leads to fungus, which can be harmful for these animals. It should be scraped out before being whitewashed. We suggest whitewashing as lime acts as a filter and provides calcium to the birds and animals that are drinking from it," said Dr. (Colonel) Shariff.

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Up for this?
Union Minister seeks nominations for science, tech, innovators' honours

Keep e-waste out of landfills

Here's how to recycle those old laptops, iPhones and earbuds lying around

Many consumers are guilty of filling drawers or closets with old laptops, cellphones, fitness trackers and other electronic devices once they are no longer needed. It's hard to know where to recycle those items, or it seems costly and inconvenient.

The world generates millions of tons of electronic waste — also called e-waste — each year. According to the United Nations' most recent estimate, people worldwide produced 137 billion pounds (62 million metric tons) of e-waste in 2022, and only about 22% of it was properly recycled.

Keeping e-waste out of landfills is important because the devices contain materials that can harm the environment. Electronics can also contain precious metals and rare earths that are hard to source, making recycling valuable to businesses.

"The way that we're creating and using and disposing of these devices has generated this completely unsustainable waste stream," said Rick Neitzel, an environmental health sciences professor at the University of Michigan. "And there's no signs of that abating at all. In fact, the trend continues to accelerate."

Experts say that if more consumers recycle their e-waste, it could even drive down the cost of some electronics. Here are some tips.

While all recycling comes with challenges, it is often more confusing to recycle e-waste than a plastic bottle or cardboard box. Electronics can range from a small earbud to a large refrigerator, each with different materials inside, he said. Recyclers need to be able to extract each component and material efficiently. That is a complex, energy-intensive and expensive process.

But the efforts are worth it. Components such as steel, aluminum, copper, gold, silver, plastics and even glass, can be recovered and reused, said John Shegerian, founder of Electronic Recyclers International.

Keeping harmful materials out of landfills is another incentive.

> **"The manufacturers are where we want this stuff to end up because they know their products, they know best and most efficiently how to recycle them**

"These electronics — which could and have historically ended up in our landfills or in other inappropriate places — can leak all the stuff that's contained there within: Mercury, lead, cadmium, beryllium, arsenic. All these things are horrible if they get into the ecosystem," Shegerian said.

Experts say recovering precious metals from devices also helps the environment by lowering the need to mine more of those resources.

Some consumers may be hesitant to recycle devices because of the personal data stored on them. Experts say that in order to protect your data, start with a factory reset — not just deleting files.

Resets restore the device to its original settings and thoroughly remove data. It's important to follow the manufacturer's guidance, as each device has different steps. Wiping an Android phone, for example, requires different steps than wiping an iPhone.

Even factory resets may leave traces of data, so some recyclers will go as far as shredding a device's hard drive — and verify it's been destroyed. What's left goes through the recycling process.

If an item is newer and still in working condition, manufacturers may refurbish and resell it. Some charities and recyclers can also refresh devices so they can be given to those in need.

Look for major electronics and computer manufacturers that allow for their old equipment to be shipped back as part of buy-back offerings, or dropped off at a partnering site.

Apple, for example, offers a credit toward a future purchase if your trade-in is current enough. Otherwise, they provide free recycling for older models.

Even if a device can't be refurbished, manufacturers are still a good first place to check, experts say. "The manufacturers are where we want this stuff to end up because they know their products, they know best and most efficiently how to recycle them," Neitzel said.

He said improving the mineral recovery process and boosting recycling rates can also help consumers in another way: "It can also potentially bring down the price of your future electronics." **AP**

Ultralightweight sonar plus AI lets tiny drones navigate like bats

To help small aerial robots navigate in the dark and other low-visibility environments, my colleagues and I developed an ultrasound-based perception system inspired by bat echolocation.

Current robots rely heavily on cameras or light detection and ranging, known as lidar, or both. But these sensors fail in visually challenging conditions, such as smoke, fog, dust, snow or complete darkness.

I'm a scientific engineer who develops bio-inspired microrobots. To solve this challenge, my research team looked at nature's experts at navigating in poor visibility: bats. They thrive in dark, damp and dusty caves and can detect obstacles as thin as a human hair using echolocation while weighing as little as two paper clips. They emit sound waves and listen to weak echoes reflected from objects.

However, enabling this sensing on aerial robots is extremely challenging because propellers generate a lot of noise. It is a bit like trying to listen to your friend while a jet engine is taking off next to you.

To overcome this issue, we present two key ideas. First, a physical acoustic shield inspired by bat's ear cartilage reduces propeller noise around the acoustic sensors, which act like the robot's ears. Second, a neural network called Saranga recovers weak echo signals from very noisy measurements by learning patterns over time, inspired by how bats process sound.

Together, these enable the robot to estimate obstacle locations in 3D and navigate safely using milliwatt-level sensing power.

Why it matters

These types of drones are very useful for search and rescue, especially in confined, dynamic and dangerous environments, because they are small and inexpensive. Search-and-rescue operations often happen in environments where visibility is very poor, such as forest fires, collapsed buildings, caves or dusty outdoor conditions. In these scenarios, traditional sensors like cameras and lidar often become unreliable.

Bats do not rely only on vision and instead use echolocation to perceive the world. Ultrasound sensing doesn't depend on lighting conditions and works in smoke, dust and darkness.

Our work shows that it is possible to bring this capability to aerial robots despite strong onboard propeller noise. Sonar boosted by noise shielding and machine learning promises to enable a new class of small, low-cost robots that can operate in environments where current systems fail.

This research can enable highly functional, autonomous, tiny aerial robots for critical humanitarian applications, such as search and rescue, combating poaching and cave exploration.

— Nitin Sanket, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, The Conversation

BITS & BYTES

CYBER ATTACK ON LIFE

With cyber attacks targeting critical infrastructure such as healthcare and power grids, the threat landscape has moved beyond mere data theft, a senior cybersecurity expert has said.

Gaurav Shukla, Partner and Leader - Cyber at Deloitte South Asia, noted that the convergence of IT and Operational Technology (OT) has made sectors like aviation, transport, and public utilities vulnerable. Shukla said a cyber attack on a medical device altering patient data could be fatal, while a hack on power generation and transmission components could cause national blackouts. **PTI**

STOP THE SEARCH

A group of survivors of Jeffrey Epstein has filed a lawsuit against Google, alleging that the company's AI tools and search engine exposed their personal identities and contact information online, leading to harassment, threats, and renewed emotional trauma, according to CNBC.

The case, filed in a US federal court by a survivor identified as Jane Doe on behalf of others in similar situations, centers on claims that sensitive details — including names, email addresses, and phone numbers — appeared through Google platforms despite requests for their removal. According to the complaint, these disclosures occurred after victims had sought to keep their information private. **IANS**

PERSONALITY SECURED

The Delhi High Court has protected the personality rights of Indian cricket team coach Gautam Gambhir by restraining social media users from publishing unauthorised AI-generated content using his name, image, voice or other attributes of his persona.

Justice Jyoti Singh, in an interim order on a lawsuit by Gambhir, said that as one of the "most decorated cricketers of this country", he has the right to "protect his name, likeness and all other attributes of his personality and no third party has a right to use these attributes without his consent/authorisation". Gambhir had alleged a coordinated campaign of digital impersonation. **PTI**

HEALTH TIP: Eating oats as a meal can help reduce overall calorie intake and support weight loss

Avoid adding sugar, honey, or excess dry fruits in and pair oats with protein wherever possible

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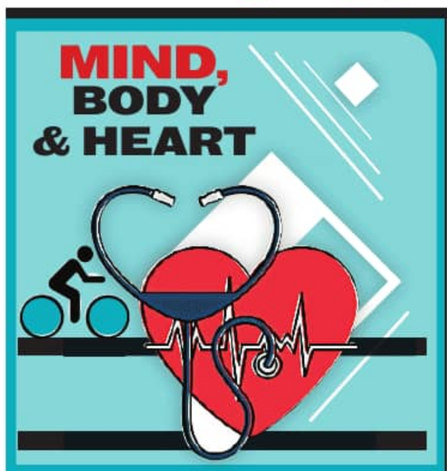


All you need to know about...

Vit B12 for pregnant women

Helps brain development in babies

Improving Vitamin B12 supplementation during pregnancy in vegetarian women can benefit early brain development in babies, a new study has found.

The study, published in the journal BMJ Paediatrics Open, was conducted in two centres located in India and Nepal by a joint team of researchers from both these countries and the UK.

Deficiency among vegetarians

According to Dr Jitender Nagpal, Deputy Medical Director of Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Science and Research in Delhi, who led the study in India, the findings also shows intake of Vitamin B12 while pregnant substantially reduces maternal Vitamin B12 deficiency.

Vitamin B12 deficiency is common in populations with limited animal source foods and has been linked to delayed infant neurodevelopment and adverse pregnancy outcomes, the study said.

Vitamin B12 deficiency affects a large proportion of women in South Asia, particularly in populations with low consumption of animal source foods and predominantly vegetarian communities, Dr Nagpal said.

"Despite this high burden, Vitamin B12 remains poorly addressed in routine antenatal care, which continues to focus largely on iron and folic acid. Routine Vitamin B12 supplementation is not currently included in government antenatal guidelines or expert body recommendations in India," he said.

Benefit for infants

"Babies born to mothers receiving the higher dose scored significantly higher on early mental development assessments at 9-12 months of age, while motor development was similar between groups," Dr Nagpal stated. -PTI

Whip up a salad

Summer is upon us, so take it easy with these easy-breezy salads

SWEET CITRUS SALAD

Ingredients Quantity

- Pomelo 50gm
- Blood orange 50 gm
- Orange fresh 100gm
- Cherry tomato 30gm
- Lettuce green 20gm
- Iceberg lettuce 30gm
- Sunflower seeds 3gm
- Thai red chilli slant cut few slices
- Yuzu dressing 60ml
- For Yuzu Dressing
- Yuzu extract 15 ml
- Sweet chilli sauce 20 ml
- Tamarind Pulp 20 ml
- Garlic chopped 03 gms
- Fresh red chilli chopped 03 gms
- Light soya 10ml

Preparation

- Prepare and Chill the Citrus Carefully segment the pomelo, blood orange, and orange, removing all bitter white pith and membranes. Place the segments in a bowl and refrigerate until well-chilled. This step ensures the fruit maintains its structural integrity and provides a refreshing temperature contrast.
- Crisp the Greens Wash the lettuce leaves in ice-cold water. Spin or pat them thoroughly dry—any excess moisture will dilute the dressing. Keep the leaves in the refrigerator alongside the halved cherry tomatoes until you are ready to assemble.
- Emulsify and Toss In a large, chilled mixing bowl, combine the cold citrus segments, lettuce, and cherry tomatoes. Drizzle the yuzu dressing over the ingredients and toss gently by hand or with light tongs. Aim for a light coating that highlights, rather than drenching, the delicate produce.
- Plate and Garnish Arrange the salad onto a chilled platter or individual plates, ensuring the colorful citrus segments are visible. Scatter the sunflower seeds over the top for a nutty crunch, and finish with the slanted Thai red chili for a sophisticated pop of color and heat.

Recipe from Chef Priyank Singh Chouhan, Director, Culinary & operations for JSM corporation, Shiro

WATERMELON, FETA AND CUCUMBER SALAD

Prep Time: 10 min
Serving Size: 3

Ingredients

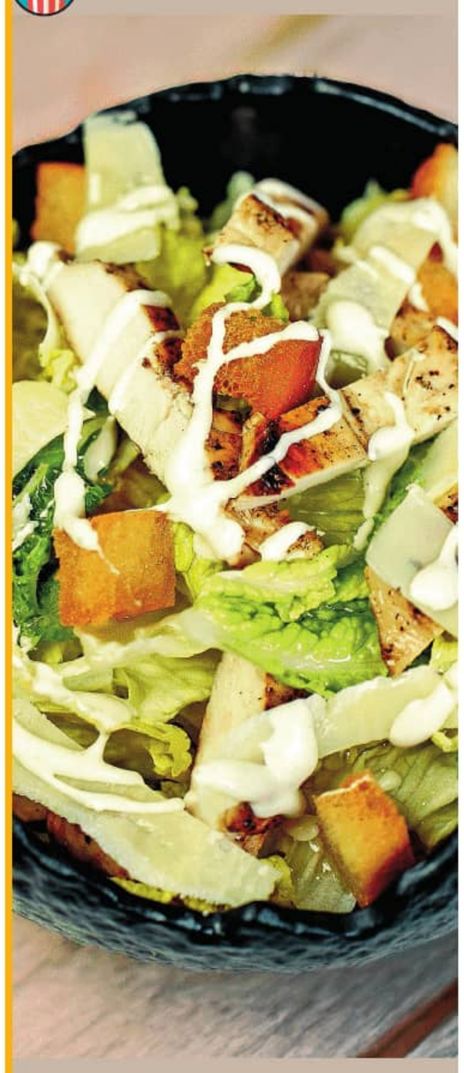
- 3 cups watermelon
- 1/3 cup feta cheese, crumbled
- 1 1/2 cups sliced cucumber, without seeds
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp lime juice
- 1 tsp honey
- A few mint sprigs

Method

- Chop the watermelon, cucumber and mint and put them together in a bowl.
- Make a syrup of honey and lime, put it on the bowl and mix them.
- Add olive oil dressing and toss properly
- Garnish the refreshing salad with feta cheese. Add salt if needed.
- You can add basil to it for a new variant.

Recipe by nutritionist Pooja Banga for Femina

CHICKEN, WALNUT & GRAPE SALAD



Ingredients

- ½ ciabatta, torn into bite-sized pieces
- 100 g walnut halves
- 1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 100 g low fat yoghurt
- 1 tbsp chopped chives
- 1 tbsp white wine vinegar
- 100 g rocket (arugula)
- 200 g roast chicken breast, shredded
- 150 g seedless red grapes, halved
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Method

- Preheat the oven to 200° C.
- Place the bread and walnuts on a baking tray and toss in the oil to coat. Season and bake for 10 minutes until golden.
- Mix together the yoghurt, chives and white wine vinegar to make a dressing, Season to taste.
- Place the rocket on two plates, drizzle with a little of the dressing.
- Top with the ciabatta croutons and walnuts, then scatter over the chicken and grapes.
- Drizzle the remaining dressing over the salad and serve immediately.
- Tips: This is a great way to use up any day-old bread and leftover roast chicken or turkey.
- You can also use white grapes or a mixture of the white and red.

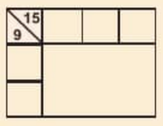
Recipe by California Walnuts

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

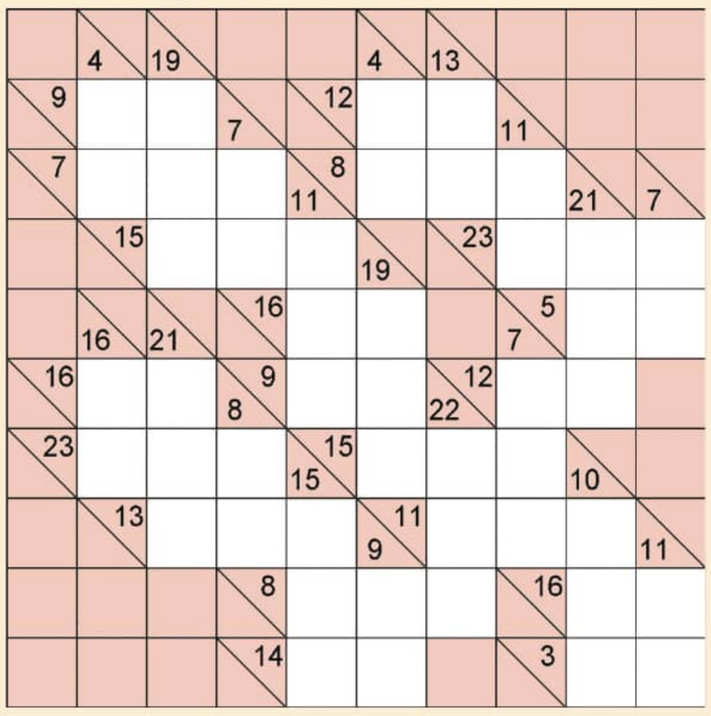
$\sqrt{(20 + \sqrt{(364)}) + \sqrt{(20 - \sqrt{(364)})}} = ?$

Kakuro

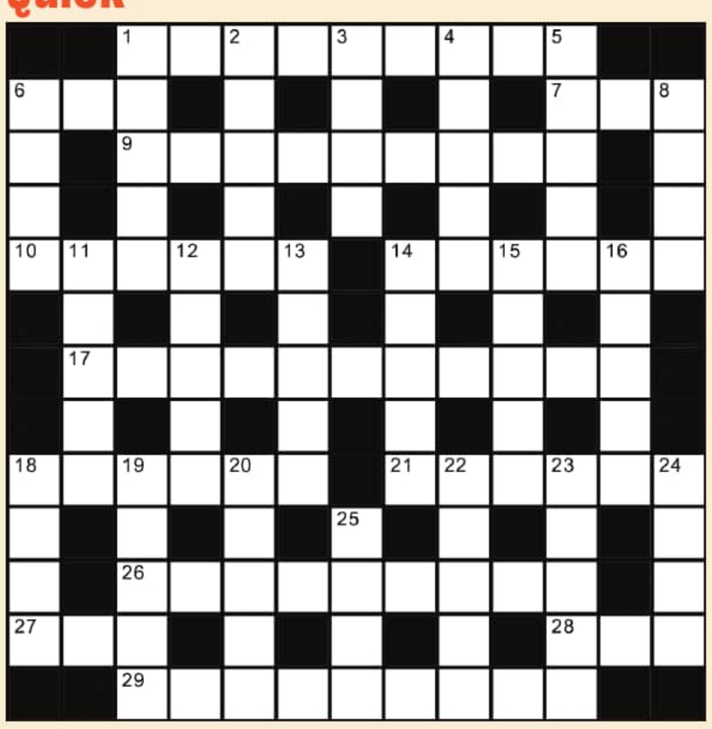
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Square dance for four couples (9)
6 Fiji island (3)
7 Physician informally (3)
9 Rudeness (9)
10 Worldwide (6)
14 Sea robber (6)
17 First of January (3,5,3)
18 Abilities (6)
21 Consumed cigarettes (6)
26 Restaurant at the Taj Gateway hotel known for its seafood (9)
27 Spanish cheer (3)
28 Adipose (3)
29 Account (9)

DOWN

1 Ecuador's capital (5)
2 Between ports (2,3)
3 Dominion (4)
4 Hawaiian verandah (5)
5 Dropsy, excessive accumulation of serous fluid? (5)
6 The organ of breathing (4)
8 Refer to (4)
11 Slowly, musically (5)
12 Singer David ___ (5)
13 Ogles lustfully (5)
14 Cat's sounds of pleasure (5)
15 Wild West carnival (5)
16 A culinary herb (5)
18 Rider's game (4)
19 Become conscious (5)
20 Harder to find (5)
22 Many (prefix) (5)
23 War to the ___: unrelenting conflict? (5)
24 Small pointed missile (4)
25 Eye part (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS W

RQ HQEQD DQCJJV WHPR RXCZ MZYITG.TZV TM YHZTJ RQ XCEQ QLIQDTOQHZQG PH PYDMQJEQM.

Linemaro

The sun must be jealous of the way you shine

Mindchow

No man is free who is not a master of himself

Joke of the day

Americans are benevolently ignorant about Canada, while Canadians are malevolently well informed about the United State

Loop

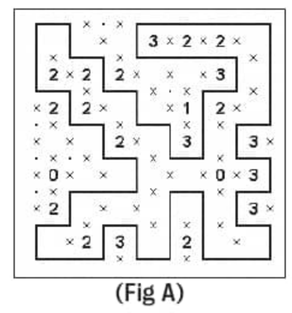
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

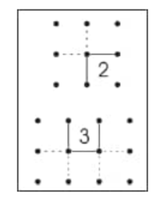
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

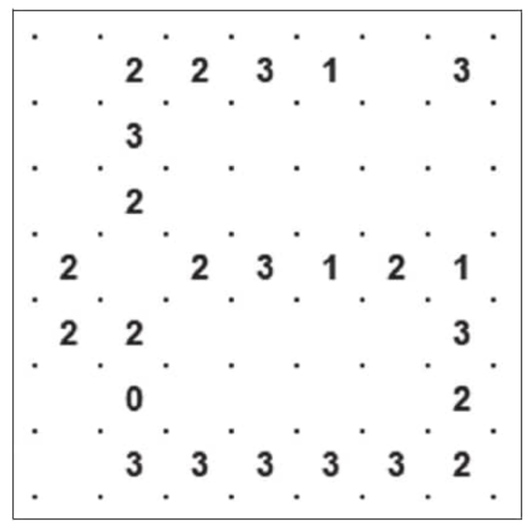
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



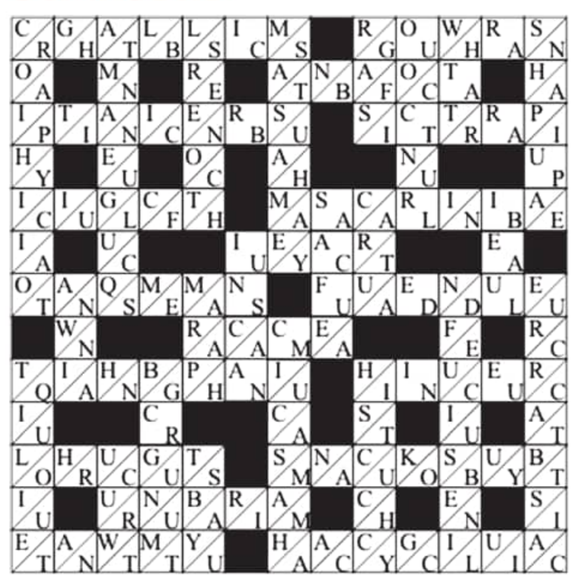
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



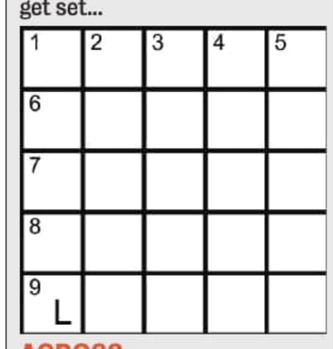
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

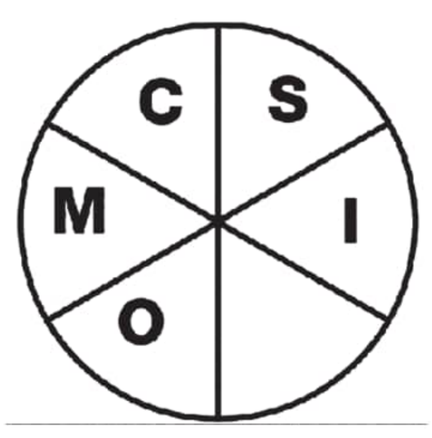
1 Al Fat; 6 Mien I; 7 In Jan; 8 Canon; 9 Louts

DOWN

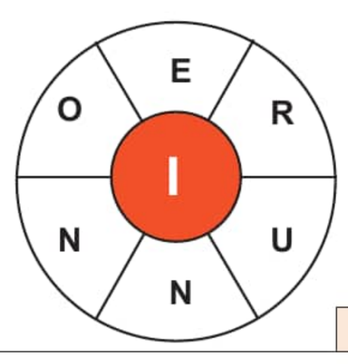
1 If LAN; 2 Naomi; 3 C tint; 4 A Juno; 5 Lanes

Mensapuzzle

Which letter should be added to the empty segment?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	5		6		4		1	
2			5		9			4
		3				9		
	9	2				1	8	
			8		3			
	1	8				3	5	
		9				2		
1			3		5			8
	3		7		6		9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

÷ × + −

Easy = 11
3 7 5 4

Medium = 15
3 9 9 1

Hard = 6
3 6 6 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

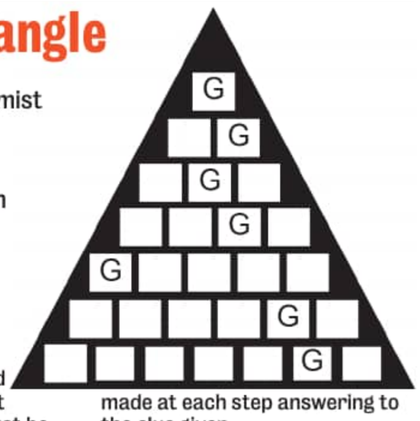
Differences: 1. Ball is moved. 2. Cue stick is shorter. 3. Pool table leg is different. 4. Sleeve is different. 5. Side pocket is missing. 6. Tie is different.

Riddler

Crack the code to find three Premier League football teams: VKBXQC, IKDSUHBQDT, VKBXQC. (Hint: Code is sequential i.e. if you think A = G then it will follow that B = H, C = I, and so on)

Alpha triangle

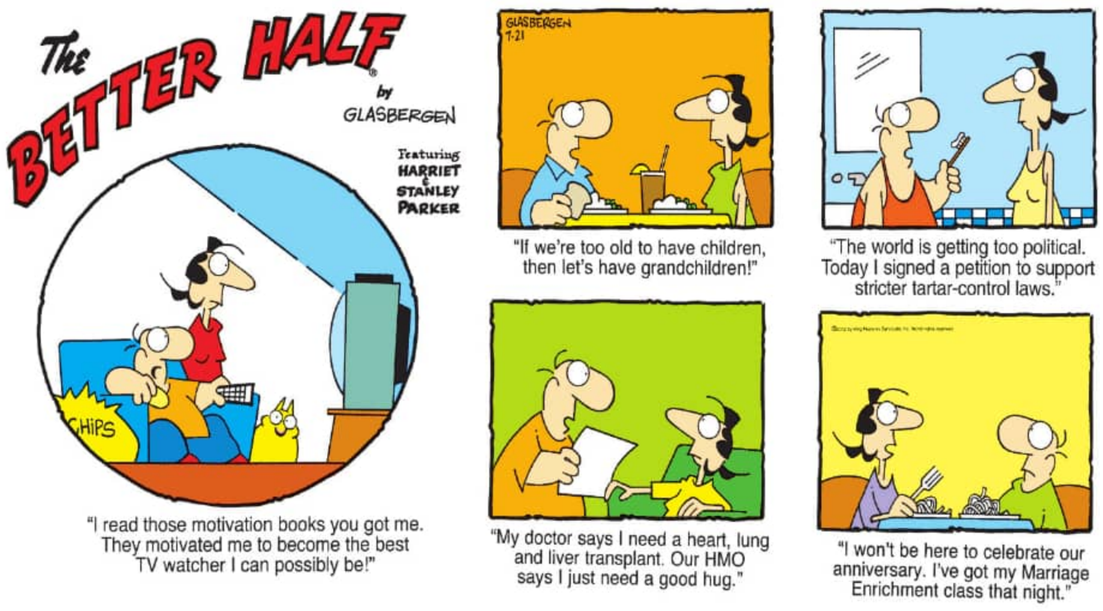
1 7th letter
2 Silver for the chemist
3 Get up there
4 Fury
5 Serious
6 Wreak havoc upon
7 Mean

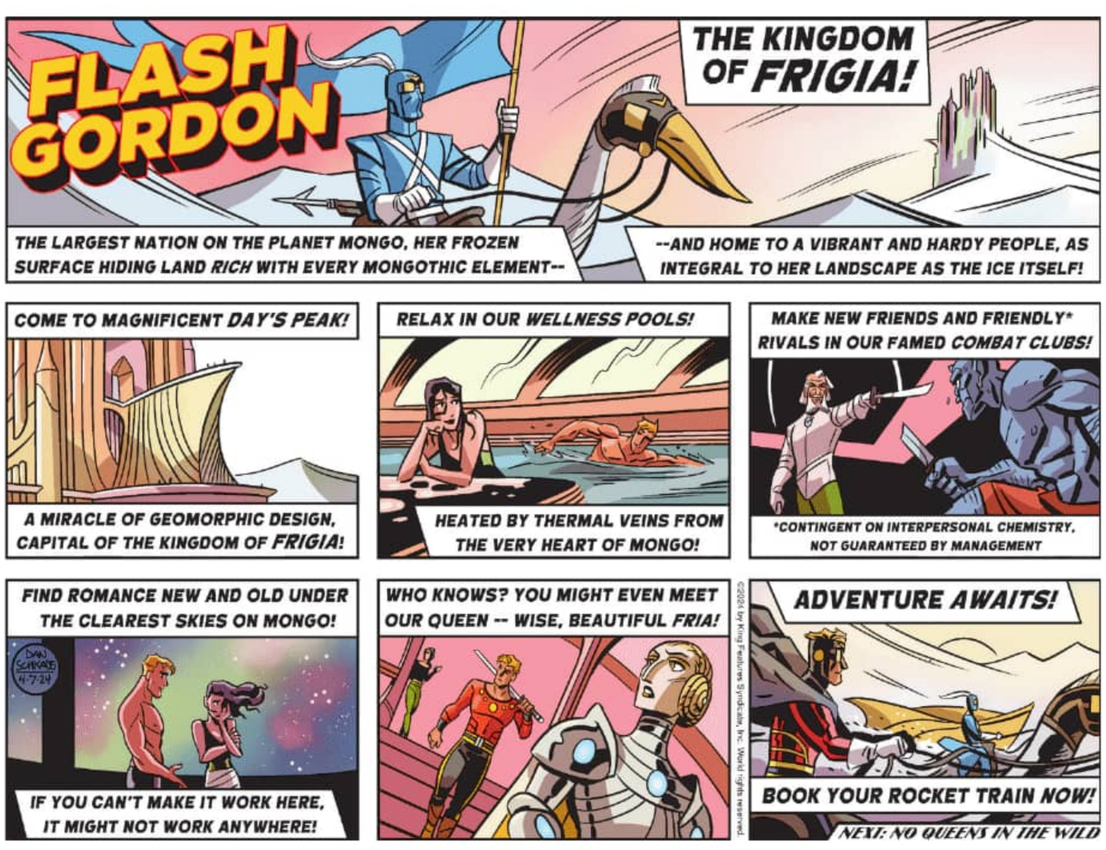


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

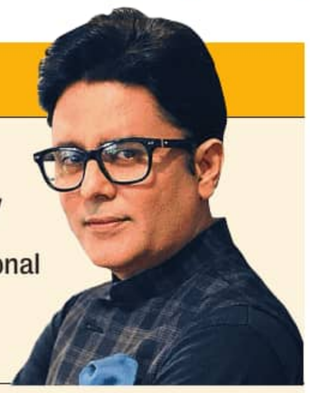
COMICS





WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Empathy strengthens your connections. Love feels compassionate and deeply bonded. Career fulfilment grows through teamwork and understanding. Financial balance improves with thoughtful generosity. Travel expands emotional awareness. Home feels comforting and meaningful. When you lead with kindness and patience, you attract supportive relationships and outcomes that nurture every area of life.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Avoid excess this weekend. Extreme behaviour attracts unwanted scrutiny from people hoping you fail. You may shrug now, but consequences later will matter, so pace yourself carefully.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
If an unpleasant issue needs addressing, handle it now. Ignoring reality won't work. Face matters directly while you have momentum and clarity to resolve them properly.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Watch your words this weekend. Not everyone welcomes blunt opinions. If you make bold claims, ensure you can support them with solid facts and undeniable evidence.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may want to stay unnoticed, but circumstances won't allow it. Many eyes are on you, expecting strong performance, so rise to the occasion confidently.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Just because you can speak freely doesn't mean you should. Hold back unnecessary comments this weekend; upsetting others gains nothing and only creates avoidable tension.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Focusing solely on personal matters could blind you to major external developments. Stay alert, observe broadly, and be ready to act when beneficial changes appear.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You'll meet someone useful this weekend, even if they seem mismatched initially. Overlook minor flaws; cooperation could benefit you personally or professionally.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Delaying an unpleasant task only increases resistance. Start now, push through discomfort, and finish it promptly. Momentum builds once you begin.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Ease doesn't mean rest. Double efforts now. Every sacrifice strengthens results later, and sustained commitment brings rewards far greater than what you invest.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
If tension lingers at home, address it together. Honest conversation, understanding, and forgiveness reveal issues aren't as serious as assumed.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Step away from routine this weekend and engage with the wider world. If something feels wrong, take initiative and contribute toward meaningful improvement.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Starting something new now carries strong momentum. Creative ventures flourish especially well and may generate satisfying success, recognition, and financial reward.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Mugdha, Bengaluru

Tanya, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= √(13 + 2√13 x √7 + 7) + √(13 − 2√13 x √7 + 7)
= √((√13 + √7)^2) + √((√13 − √7)^2)
= √((√13 + √7)) + √((√13 − √7)) = 2√13

STRIKE OUT

C	H	A	L	L	I	S		G	O	W	A	N	
O		N		E		A	B	A	C	A		A	
P	I	N	C	E	R	S		S	C	R	A	P	
Y		U		C		H		A	S	C	R	I	B	E
C	U	L	C	H		A	S	C	R	I	B	E	
A		U			I	Y	A	R			E		
T	A	S	M	A	N		F	U	D	D	L	E	
	N			A	C	M	E			E		R	
Q	I	N	G	H	A	I		I	N	C	U	R	
U			R			A		T		I		A	
O	R	C	U	S		S	A	C	K	B	U	T	
I		U	N	A	R	M		H		E		I	
T	A	T	T	Y		A	C	Y	C	L	I	C	

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
Y. Going clockwise, the letters in alternate segments advance 6.

RIDDLER
Fulham, Sunderland, Liverpool (A becomes K, B becomes L etc).

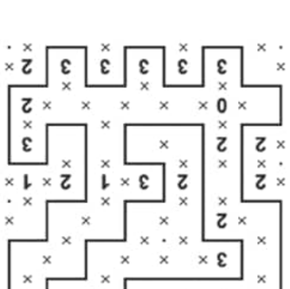
SUDOKU

9	5	7	6	3	4	8	1	2
2	8	1	5	7	9	6	3	4
6	4	3	2	8	1	9	7	5
3	9	2	4	5	7	1	8	6
7	6	5	8	1	3	4	2	9
4	1	8	9	6	2	3	5	7
5	7	9	1	4	8	2	6	3
1	2	6	3	9	5	7	4	8
8	3	4	7	2	6	5	9	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, Ag, Age, Rage, Grave, Ravage, Average.

LOOP
3 − 8 + 6 x 6 = 6

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 3 + 5 − 4 = 11
Medium
9 + 9 x 1 − 3 = 15
Hard



KAKURO

BULL'S EYE
ennui, inner, inure, iron, nine, rein, REUNION, ruin, union, urine

FAST FIVE

F	A	T	A	L
I	M	I	N	E
N	I	N	J	A
A	N	C	O	N
L	O	T	U	S

QUOTE UNCODE
We never really know what stupidity is until we have experimented on ourselves.

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All about respect
Somy Ali says Sanjay Dutt taught her to respect film crew & spot boy with same dignity & respect

Jingoism much?

Aditya Dhar's 'Dhurandhar' sequel, released in December, has surpassed Rs 1,000 crore in just nine days, fueling its relentless box-office storm with sold-out screenings nationwide. Actor Dia Mirza has now spoken up boldly about the film. "There is a trend to enjoy and celebrate jingoism," she said,

Dia recently opened up on The Namrata Zakaria Show about the criticism her IC 814 team endured for their Kandahar hijack series. 'Dhurandhar' got tagged as a "chest thumping film," while IC 814 faced heat for taking a different path. She shared, "The show was called out for humanising all the characters, including the terrorists. I guess it is because we are celebrating jingoism too much now. We adore it. There is a trend to enjoy and celebrate jingoism, which our show is not. I don't regret it. It has such a balanced view and gives people the opportunity to see each side the way it was."

As industry voices hold back on the film, Dia highlighted why artists must raise their voices. "I think it is very important to be vocal as artistes. I am a big Shabana Azmi bhakt, and I follow her message that if art is not utilised to improve the lives of others, then what is the point of art. So yes, I am political, and I have a stand. And yes, I will convey that through the choices I make in the stories I tell."

Dia also recognised the toll of taking these positions, "It is not easy. We are trolled regularly. Beyond that, there is all kinds of intimidation because if you are not towing the line and not in agreement with what larger forces expect, then it is not easy." **–ETimes**

First and only choice

Director Geetu Mohandas opens up about why Kiara suits 'Toxic' role perfectly

Fans were quite unhappy when the release date for Yash's 'Toxic' was shifted to June, but now it seems that they are counting days to its release, and the expectations are high. Bollywood star Kiara Advani stars alongside Yash, and ahead of the release, director Geetu Mohandas has opened up about casting Kiara, revealing that the actress was her first and only choice for the role of Nadia.

Geetu Mohandas shared in an interview with Grazia India that Kiara Advani perfectly fit the character from the beginning. She believed the role required a unique emotional balance. Speaking about casting, she said, "Nadia (portrayed by Kiara Advani) embodies fragility and ferocity at once, so from the very beginning, she was my first and only choice. There is something about her screen presence that feels deeply human. Sometimes cinema begins not with logic, but with a feeling, and casting Kiara was exactly that kind of feeling." Geetu Mohandas highlighted Kiara's ability to bring authenticity to her characters and noted that her presence on screen feels natural and relatable. The filmmaker explained that casting decisions are sometimes driven by instinct. In Kiara's case, it was an immediate connection to the role. The director also spoke about Kiara's work ethic and approach to acting and her discipline and sincerity.

Geetu Mohandas said, "Her dedication is not loud or performative. It is quiet, disciplined, and deeply sincere. She doesn't just follow directions; she participates in building the emotional architecture of the character. You can see that she has spent time living with the character in her mind long before the camera starts rolling. But what sets her apart is her curiosity, which transforms the filmmaking process." **– ETimes**

That just blew up

Tom Felton, known for playing Draco Malfoy in the Harry Potter film series, revealed that he had no idea his delivery of the name "Potter" would become one of the franchise's most iconic lines, according to People.

Speaking on the Happy Sad Confused podcast, the actor said, "I don't know how that's become an iconic thing. I had no idea." He explained that growing up as the youngest of three brothers, he was often called names like "maggot" or "runt," which influenced his naturally venomous delivery. "But 'Potter,' it just got more and more venomous," he said. Felton added, "I have three older brothers, so they all would always call me something like maggot or what was I also called? Runt. Runt of the pack," as per the outlet.

"Because I was the youngest and the shortest considerably. So I don't remember ever thinking about it for a second," Felton added. Felton noted the lasting impact of his performance, saying, "All you have to do is say that in the company of a Potter fan and... goosebumps and, like, applause, something happens," as quoted by People.

Katy quips about her and beau's 'age gap'

Singer Katy Perry poked fun at her age gap with former Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau in a post on social media.

Perry, 41, took to Instagram and shared a carousel of photos, giving fans a glimpse into a recent date night with the former Canadian prime minister, 54, and poking fun at their "age gap" along the way.

In the first image, the couple could be seen smiling while holding up their phones, appearing to show the results of an age quiz.

Perry's result came in at 33.1 years old, more than eight years younger than her actual age. Trudeau's result read 43, which is about 11 years younger than his real age, reports people.com.

The rest of the post offered a look at Perry's recent life, including sweet moments with her 5-year-old daughter Daisy, whom she shares with ex-fiance Orlando Bloom.

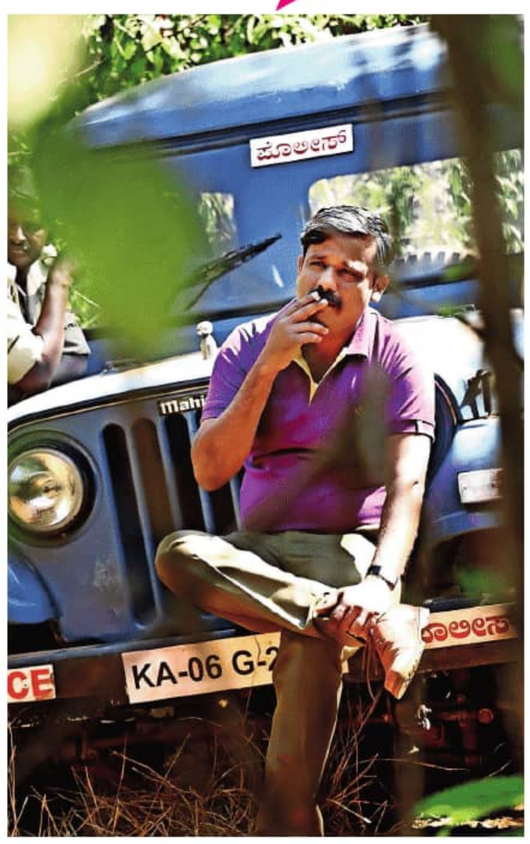
In one photo, Perry is seen skiing with her daughter, while another shows custom cowboy boots being made for the little girl.

"How old would you be if you didn't know how old you were?" she captioned the post.

The lighthearted post comes after Perry and Trudeau made their relationship Instagram official in December 2025. **–IANS**

Everything is connected

AA ONDU NOTU (KANNADA)
3.0 RATING ★★★★★
- **DIRECTOR** Ratnatanay
- **ACTORS** Bala Rajawadi, Gopal Krishna Deshpande, Gautamraj, Adithya Shetty, Megha, Silli Lalli Anand, Jagadeesh MK, Ashwin Hassan, and Akshatha Pandavapura.
- **Duration** 134 minutes
- **Certification** UA



Aa Ondu Notu, an anthology of nine interesting short stories, has already been screened at some film festivals and won a few awards and appreciation. Director Ratnatanay has done a commendable job and all the actors, who portray the important characters in the movie, have acted well. These characters not only mirror dubious people in society but also convey a message on the importance of being humane rather than greedy.

The movie begins with a hapless widowed mother (Akshata Pandavapura) struggling to get money for the treatment of her son admitted to a government hospital. She sells her gold chain for Rs 2,000 and is on the way to get to the hospital. Raja (Silli Lalli Anand), a gambler, steals the Rs 2,000 currency note from her. With this note, Raja wins a jackpot in gambling. Encouraged by his wife, he visits a club to win more money but loses everything including the Rs 2,000 note to Gopu aka Appaji (Bala Rajawadi), the club owner. Gopu, an HIV patient, decides to marry Champa, a sex worker. He donates the note to a transgender for blessing him. The transgender visits a bar. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to the bar owner and the transgender and others who get this note. The note travels from one person to another, including two lovers, a farmer, a police inspector, a garage owner, psychopaths, and a lorry driver.

All the actors are good, but character actor Gopal Krishna Deshpande, as a corrupt police inspector, walks away with all honours for his sterling performance.

It is worth a watch for those who enjoy anthologies.

–Y Maheswara Reddy